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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 336
By Leatherwood

A RESOLUTION to designate Tipton County Bar-B-Que Festival
as the Official Barbeque Festival of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, the Tipton County Bar-B-Que Festival will celebrate its twenty-fifth anniversary this year with usual fun-loving and lip-smacking activities scheduled for July 17-19, 1997 at Cobb-Parr Park in Covington, Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the Tipton County Bar-B-Que Festival has grown in stature and attendance each year since its inception, and organizers expect a crowd of over 25,000 people for the 1997 event; and

WHEREAS, the festival hosts as its primary event "The World's Oldest Bar-B-Que Cooking Contest", which is sanctioned by Memphis in May; and

WHEREAS, the barbeque craze that was born in 1973 as a celebration of Tipton County's Sesquicentennial has now established itself as a piece of Americana, complete with two sanctioning networks and hundreds of contests each year; and

WHEREAS, the popularity of barbeque cooking contests has even escaped the boundaries of the United States into Europe and has inspired a publication devoted exclusively to this distinctly southern culinary delight, *The National Barbeque News*; and

WHEREAS, it is indeed a badge of honor for Tennesseans that the cultural phenomenon of barbeque cooking contests sprang directly from the loins, (or is it the hams and shoulders?) of Tipton County; and

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WHEREAS, the 25th Annual Tipton Bar-B-Que Festival is expertly organized and deftly coordinated by the Tipton County Bar-B-Que Festival Association; “The World’s Oldest Bar-B-Que Cooking Contest” is proudly presented by the Covington Jaycees; and

WHEREAS, as legions of barbeque enthusiast descend on Covington for the 25th version of “Hog Heaven on Earth” and “The Swine Chew”, festival organizers have adroitly planned an outstanding weekend full of diverse attractions, a demolition derby, a truck pull, delicious food, including barbeque of course, and loads of live entertainment; and

WHEREAS, cooking teams can enter a sauce contest and an “Anything But Pork” contest; however, there can be no doubt, that the premier event is The World’s Bar-B-Que Cooking Contests, which organizers expect 40-45 of the top barbeque teams from across the nation to enter; and

WHEREAS, The World’s Oldest Bar-B-Que Cooking Contest commences late Friday afternoon, July 18 with ever popular showmanship competition and continues until Saturday afternoon, July 19 when the highly skilled judges crown the Grand Champion; and

WHEREAS, the Grand Champion of the The World’s Oldest Bar-B-Que Cooking Contest will proudly represent the festival with their porcine cuisine at The Memphis in May International Festival in May 1998 and will be given the opportunity to compete in the Jack Daniels Invitational to be held later this year in Lynchburg, Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, a festival of this eminent stature that hosts the oldest event of its kind in the world is most assuredly deserving of this Body’s stamp of approval; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That in recognition of its solidly established reputation as a purveyor of the highest quality and most scrumptious barbeque available either east, west or in the middle of the Mississippi River, the Tipton County Bar-B-Que Festival is hereby designated as The World’s Oldest Bar-B-Que Cooking Contest.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we encourage all Tennesseans to participate in the great fun and hog cuisine of the festival, but also urge them to avoid making pigs of themselves.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.